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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,255	01/16/2004	Jean-Francois De Bast	21029-00270-US	5693
30678 7590 12/29/2006 CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP P.O. BOX 2207 WILMINGTON, DE 19899-2207			EXAMINER BOES, TERENCE	
			ART UNIT 3682	PAPER NUMBER

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/29/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,255

Applicant(s)

DE BAST ET AL.

Examiner

Terence Boes

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 9, 11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The request filed on 12/05/2006 for a Continued Examination (RCE) is accepted and a continued prosecution application has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The recitation "allowing a greater angular range for clicking in" appearing at the end of independent claims 1, 8, 9, and 12, renders the claims indefinite. The term "greater" in the claims is a relative term which renders the claims indefinite. The term lacks a relative basis. What is the angular range being compared to?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ueda US 6,012,356.

Ueda discloses:

- a first rear hoop (see figure 1, left upper instance of 24) comprising a first rear attachment bar situated behind the pedal spindle and substantially parallel to the pedal spindle,
- the first rear hoop being articulated about a first hoop spindle mounted in bearings of the pedal body (26),
- a first front hoop (see figure 1, right upper instance of 24) comprising a first front attachment bar situated in front of the pedal spindle and substantially parallel to the pedal spindle,
- the first front hoop being articulated about a second hoop spindle (26),
- elastic means (28) urging the first rear hoop and the first front hoop toward a rest position in which a mid-plane of the first front hoop and a mid-plane of the first rear hoop are substantially orthogonal to a mid-plane of the pedal,

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- said mid-plane of the pedal passing through a geometric axis of the pedal and being parallel to an upper bearing face (66) of the pedal,
- wherein: the front and rear attachment bars are situated above the pedal body and are able to be moved apart (see figure 2)
 - the recitation "...to allow the passage and attachment of a cleat fixed under a sole of a cycle shoe in a housing of the sole, at least one edge of which is limited by a stud whose thickness is greater than a thickness of the cleat" is considered to be an intended use of the device. A claim containing a "recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from the prior art apparatus." Therefore, claim 1 is rejected since all claim limitations have been met as disclosed above (see MPEP 2114).
- the second hoop spindle is situated below said mid-plane of the on an opposite side to the front attachment bar (see figure 2, mid-plane is horizontal line passing through center of pedal body;
- a front upper part of the pedal body is limited by a front face (38),
- said front face being located outside of two sides of the first front hoop and being inclined downward toward its a front of the pedal (see incline in figure 2),
 - the recitation "allowing a greater angular range for clicking in" is considered to be an intended use of the device. A claim containing

a "recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from the prior art apparatus." Therefore, claim 1 is rejected since all claim limitations have been met as disclosed above (see MPEP 2114).

- wherein material is retained around bearings through which the second hoop spindle passes (see figure 2).
- a second rear hoop integral with the first front hoop so as to form a
- rectangular frame (see figure 2), said second rear hoop comprising a second rear attachment bar;
- a second front hoop integral with the first rear hoop so as to form a rectangular frame (see figure 2), said second front hoop comprising a second front attachment bar, wherein said first front hoop and said first rear hoop are located at a top face of the pedal, and wherein the second front hoop and the second rear hoop are located at a bottom face of the pedal.
- wherein said first front hoop comprises at least one lateral stop (68) limiting the freedom of transverse displacement of a cleat fixed under a shoe.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2 and 3, as best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda US 6,012,356.

Ueda discloses the claimed invention except for the inclination of the front face being 40 degrees. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the inclination of the front face 40 degrees, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

Regarding claim 3, a claim containing a "recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from the prior art apparatus." Therefore, claim 3 is rejected since all claim limitations have been met as disclosed above (see MPEP 2114).

Furthermore, Ueda discloses the claimed invention except for the angular range for clicking in being 25 degrees. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the angular range for clicking in 25 degrees, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

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5. Claim 6, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda US 6,012,356 in view of Beyl EP 0572291.

Ueda discloses all of the claimed subject matter as described above. Ueda does not disclose a cap.

Beyl teaches a cap (26) for the purpose of ensuring that a front part of a sole of a cleat slide relative to the pedal while clicking in, thus improving operation (see abstract).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Ueda and provide a cap, as taught by Beyl, for the purpose of ensuring that a front part of a sole of a cleat slide relative to the pedal while clicking in, thus improving operation.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

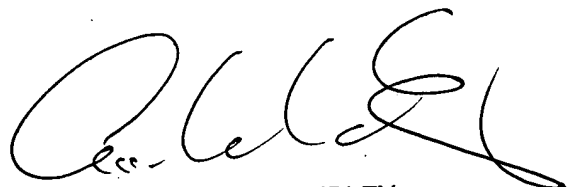
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Terence Boes whose telephone number is (571) 272-4898. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TB
12/22/06

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Ridley', is written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD RIDLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER